

## Gas Heater Dangers Rise as Cold Days Near, Health Officer Warns

ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., County Health Officer

When cases of carbon monoxide poisoning occur that are caused by fumes given off by defective heaters, the importance of properly vented gas heating units is highlighted. Such incidents always increase in number during the cold months of the year.

The State Housing Act of 1951, made the operation of unvented gas heaters in all living units within the cities of Los Angeles County contrary to law. Landlords then became criminally responsible if a tenant met death through the operation of such a heater.

In September of last year, the new County Ordinance incorporated the regulations contained in the Housing Act and extended the requirements for the venting of gas heaters to the unincorporated area and to single dwellings as well as multiple units (apartments, flats, motels, and so forth).

CASES OF poisoning that are caused by improperly operating gas appliances are unnecessary, since all such equipment can easily be checked for safe burning characteristics before use. This service may be obtained from the various gas companies or from a local gas appliance store.

It is especially important to have this examination made if the heater happens to be second hand or has been in storage for the summer months. Forced air heaters and other vented units that heat with gas should also be maintained properly in order to remain safe.

AT THE same time, any existing event can be checked for blockage or leakage and a check also made to ascertain whether or not the heater is vented to the outside as it should be and not to another room or the attic.

The back panel of forced air units, when opened to change the filter or for any other reason, should be securely fastened in place prior to re-use of the unit.

Although unvented heaters

are most often the cause of gas poisoning fatalities, they occasionally occur in the case of vented heaters when the vent is not functioning properly or is not vented to the outdoors.

AS A RULE, the first symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning consist of headache, a feeling of grogginess, and a shortage of breath on exertion. When such symptoms are noticed in circumstances which point to the possibility of a carbon monoxide hazard, the air of the room should be immediately freshened.

Although carbon monoxide gas poisoning may occur from a number of sources, including car exhaust, the greatest danger is the unvented gas heater in dwelling units. Any open-faced heaters, vented or unvented, should be replaced with heaters approved by the AGA (American Gas Association) for vented use, and vented to the outside air according to the requirements of the local building department.

### RECREATION SPOTS CLOSING THURSDAY

All Torrance Recreation Department Facilities will be closed or unsupervised on Thanksgiving Day, but special programs are planned at various playgrounds on the following day.

All nine playgrounds will have supervised play, with holiday emphasis, starting at 9 a.m. on Friday.

### Gig Young Acclaimed On Broadway Opening

Gig Young has opened on Broadway to high critical acclaim from the drama critics for his starring performance in Lawrence Roman's new comedy, "Under the Yum Yum Tree," which Frederick Brisson is producing at New York's Henry Miller Theatre.

Members of the Marymount College Mission Club are preparing Thanksgiving baskets for eight needy families. Each will be completely filled with food, including an 18-pound turkey.

## Plans for Annual Program Of Christmas Music in Arena Set

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced this week that plans are now being worked out for the second annual Christmas eve music concert at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena and that church groups of all faiths are invited to participate.

Any church which wants to take part in the 12-hour long program of Christmas music is asked to communicate with John te Groen, executive secretary of the Los Angeles Music Commission, at 1851 S. Westmoreland Ave., Los Angeles 6.

THE FIRST Christmas music program at the Sports Arena was authorized last year by the Coliseum Commission as the start of a beautiful Yuletide tradition for Southern California.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, the Commission stipulated that the 12 hour music program be put on at no cost to itself or to the public. Last year 24 different church groups participated in the program, donating the time and talents of their organists, choirs and vocal groups.

MORE THAN 4000 persons

braved the worst storm of the season last Christmas eve to visit the Sports Arena and listen to the music.

Hahn emphasized that this year's program will be conducted the same as last years and that the public is invited to visit the Sports Arena and enjoy the music for a half-hour, an hour or as long as any individual wishes.

"The Christmas music program is the Coliseum Commission's Christmas gift to the public. I can think of no better way to observe the true meaning of Christmas than by lis-

tening to lovely Christmas carols at the Sports Arena," he stated.

HE ADDED that it is hoped that in time the traditional Christmas eve music program will replace office parties where liquor is served and drunken drivers turned loose on the streets.

"Any company which wishes to bring its employees to the Sports Arena to enjoy the music is certainly welcome." The program is tentatively

scheduled to run from 10 o'clock in the morning on December 24 until 10 o'clock that night, with each church group participating being assigned half-hour segments.

AS WAS DONE last year, the entire 12-hour program will be broadcast over FM radio station KRHM.

Loud speakers will be placed outside the Sports Arena so that persons driving through Exposition park to see the Christmas tree lane they will also be able to enjoy the concert.

### Farm Labor Office To Move Next Week

The Gardena Farm Labor Office, formerly located at 16407 S. New Hampshire Ave., Gardena, will move into new quarters on Nov. 28, at 1308 Cravens. All farm placement services will be transferred to the new location in the California Department of Employment in Torrance. The telephone number will be FA 8-2611 and Lucille Mansfield will continue as the farm placement interviewer. The office hours will be from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

WESTERN

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(Where Arlington becomes Narbonne in Lomita) We Reserve the Right to Limit Quantities

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**TURKEYS**  
 FOR YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER  
 ORDER YOURS NOW FOR BEST SELECTION!!

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CREAM 3 oz. 2 For 29<sup>c</sup>

CHEESE 8 oz. 33<sup>c</sup>

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MINCE 39<sup>c</sup>

Banquet Beef - Chicken - Turkey

MEAT 8-oz. 5 FOR \$1.00

HI-VI 6oz. JUICE ORANGE 6 FOR \$1.00

## Garden Checklist

1. Separate Begonia tubers from their stems as the latter dry off. Wash soil off the tubers and store them until next year in a dry place.
2. Cut back Chrysanthemums as they go out of bloom. No need to wait.
3. Fallen leaves and most faded annuals can be composted. The exception is diseased material such as a mildewed Dahlia.
4. Fuchsias may be bloomed out, but they are not to be pruned until after the first of the year. February is the usual month.
5. November is the ideal month for planting evergreen shrubs and trees. Many bare-root trees will be available soon.

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